the facts ABOUT THE PALESTINE PROBLEM

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DID YOU KNOW THAT

1) Theodore Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement, said of the indigenous population of Palestine where he had decided to establish his Jewish state : «We intend to work the poor population across the frontier surreptitiously by providing work for them in transit countries but denying them any employment in *our* own land.» (Herzl said this before the Zionists had any claim to or any possessions in Palestine).

(*The* Herzl Memoirs, *Vol. I, p. 88*)

2) When the Balfour Declaration was issued in 1917, the Jews formed nine per cent of the population and did not own more than two per cent of the land of Palestine.

(15 years of Jewish Immigration into Palestine, *1919-1934*).

3) The Arabs who formed *ninety one per cent* of the population of Palestine were referred to as the «non-Jewish communities» by this Declaration.

4) In 1918, Lord Balfour, Lord Percy and Judge Brandeis asked that Palestine should be wholly Jewish.

(Documents on British Foreign Policy, *Vol. IV, 1919-1939*).

Editor's note :

This is not a magazine, nor even a newsletter. No attempt will be made at long-winded analysis or description. It is literally a «factual» sheet.

FACTS will try to present the facts of the Palestine Problem. We think these will speak for themselves and need no comment or elaboration. It is this ignorance of the facts by the outside world that has been responsible for much of the human suffering that has taken place in Palestine. It is time that the facts were known. Only on their basis can disinterested and fair-minded people reach objective and intelligent conclusions. To help such people is our objective.

FACTS is produced by the Arab Women's Information Committee, a voluntary, non-professional, non-profit and private organization of Arab women living in Beirut, Lebanon, who have been appalled at the manner in which the Palestine Problem has been presented so far in the English-speaking press.

FACTS will be divided into two sections, the first dealing with background material, the second with current developments. It will appear on a monthly basis. We also hope to be able to publish supplements on specific issues as the occasion arises.

The background section will comprise quotations from Zionist writings to illustrate Zionist ideological and strategic thought, statistics pertaining to various aspects of the Palestine Problem, and summaries of the more important historical events and developments of the problem.

The selection of this material is necessarily arbitrary, but it is hoped that as much ground can be covered in successive issues of **FACTS** as space permits.

As to the section on current developments, it will focus attention on the developments that have taken place since 5 June 1967.

We shall endeavour throughout to give detailed references for all the material that we publish. We hope that our efforts will contribute, however modestly, to a better understanding of the Arab point of view on the Palestine Problem.

FACTS welcomes all comments, suggestions and inquiries by its readers.

5) In 1944, the British Labour Party reaffirmed its support for the Jews who sought to become the majority of the population in Palestine; its National Executive Committee issued a declaration saying that «The Arabs should be encouraged to move out as the Jews move in.»

(*Weizmann*, Trial & Error, *p. 535*).

6) The First President of Israel, Dr. Chaim Weizmann said that « Palestine should be as Jewish as England was English ».

(Report of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine, *1946, p. 36*).

7) Dr. Weizmann admitted that he wanted to impose «an artificial majority on the existing majority of the people.»

(Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry *p. 55*).

8) He admitted that injustice will be done, but said that: «The question is, the line of least injustice.»

(Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, *p. 56*).

9) In his abortive attempt at converting Mahatma Gandhi to Zionism in March 1946, Sidney Silverman the British Member of Parliament, also admits injustice, and says that, «it will not amount to more than five per cent.»

(*Two letters to Gandhi from Martin Buber and Judah Magnes, Jerusalem, 1939*).

10) This five per cent of injustice meant that in 1948, eighty-seven per cent of the Arab population of Palestine was deprived of its nationality and homeland. The thirteen per cent of the Arab population that remained was treated as second-class citizens confined to ghettoes under military rule.

(American Mercury *magazine, August 1957*).

11) This five per cent of injustice also meant that the Jews who in 1947 owned 5.6% of the land in Palestine, were given by the United Nations Partition Plan 55% of a country that belonged in its entirety to the Palestine Arabs.

12) In this Jewish State only fifty per cent of the population would have been Jews, the other fifty per cent being Arabs.

13) In their attempt at creating a «*wholly Jewish*» state, with an overwhelming Jewish majority, Jewish forces attacked and occupied many Arab Towns and villages, before May 15, 1948 the date on which the Jewish state was supposed to be proclaimed.

14) Among the towns occupied before May 15 were Safed, Haifa, Jaffa, Acre and Tiberias.

15) Also *before* May 15 1948, some 250,000 - 300,000 Palestine Arabs were expelled from their homes and driven from their lands by Jewish regular and so-called «dissident» forces (i.e. the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Gang). «Some were driven out by force of arms; others were made to leave by deceit, lying and false promise.»

(*Nathan Chofshi in* Jewish Newsletter, *February 9, 1959*).

16) Among the Arab villages attacked by Zionist forces before May 15 1948, was Deir Yassin where the Irgun Zvai Leumi butchered, and mutilated 250 villagers and threw their bodies down a well.

17) Before this attack, at the beginning of April 1948, the Irgun had concluded an agreement with the Haganah, the regular armed forces of the Jewish Agency in Palestine. According to this agreement «the Haganah was responsible for assigning military plans to the Irgun and for approving any plan of attack presented by it.»

(*Rony E. Gabbay in* A Political Study of the Arab-Jewish Conflict, *Geneva 1959*).

18) Arthur Koestler referred to the Deir Yassin massacre as the psychologically decisive factor in this spectacular exodus' (i.e. that of the Arabs from Palestine).

(«*The Other Exodus*», The Spectator, *May 18, 1961*).

19) The leader of the Irgun and present Minister without portfolio in the present Israeli Cabinet, Menachem Begin, had this to say about Deir Yassin : «The massacre was not only justified, but there would not have been a state of Israel without the victory of Deir Yassin.»

(«*The Other Exodus*», The Spectator, *May 18, 1961*).

20) With respect to the Israeli claim that the Palestine Arabs fled under orders of their leaders, Erskine Childers says: «There was not a single order, or appeal, or suggestion about evacuation from Palestine from any Arab radio station, inside or outside Palestine, in 1948. There is repeated monitored records of Arab appeals, even flat orders, to the civilians of Palestine to *Stay put.*»

(Jewish Newsletter, *October 2, 1960*).

21) The «line of least injustice» meant that in November 1948, only 160,000 Arabs out of a population of 1,200,000 Palestinian Arabs remained in the seventy-eight per cent of Palestine that fell under Zionist control. The rest became refugees in camps, supported by United Nations charity.

22) Although since 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations has passed *seventeen* resolutions asking Israel to repa-

triate and compensate the Arab refugees, Israel has consistently refused to do so.

23) When Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt was asked to visit a refugee camp near Jerusalem in 1951, she refused to do so and said: «I have come to visit my friends in Israel, not to see refugee camps,» she added, «there are refugees all over the world, and the Palestine Arabs are not worse off.»

(*Sami Hadawi.* Bitter Harvest. *New York 1967 p. 330*).

Do you know that

1) General Dayan, Minister of Defense in the present Israeli Cabinet said after the war in June 1967, that «Israel wants her land to be absolutely Israeli,» i.e. free from Arabs.

(The Times, *July 27, 1967*).

2) The second exodus of the Arabs from Palestine began on June 5, 1967 and was accomplished by the same methods used in 1948 and 1949; forcible eviction, terrorism, deceit, intimidation. (Press conference of a team of sociologists from the American University of Beirut which made a study of refugees living in the camps near Amman — Jordan, October 31, 1967).

3) In the second Arab exodus from Palestine, more than 350,000 people have been expelled from their homes and have been forced to flee from their lands in the West Bank, Gaza and Southern Syria since June 5, 1967.

(*Report of United Nations Relief and Works Agency, 1967*).

4) In August, September and October from the Gaza Strip alone about 9,000 refugees made the arduous journey across the Negev and the West Bank to cross the Jordan River into the East Bank.

(*Ministry of Information, Amman*).

5) Two British M.P.'s, Ian Gilmour and Denis Walters, say that Israel relied on «psychological methods,» «intimidation,» «threats» and «blowing up of houses» in order to drive the Arabs out of the West Bank. This «thinning out of the Arab population on the West Bank serves Israel's objectives.»

(The Times, *July 27, 1967*).

6) Among the Arab villages which were bulldozed and dynamited by the Israelis since the cease-fire are : Qalqilya in the north-western corner, Beit Awa in the Hebron district, Beit Nuba, Yalu and Emmaus in the Latrum area.

(*United Nations Relief and Works Agency Report, 1967*).

7) The Israeli authorities issued permits to return specifically to refugees from the destroyed villages knowing that they would not return simply because there was nothing to return to.

8) The lot of the «old» refugees — those who have been homeless since 1948 — is much harder on the East Bank of the Jordan than in their camps on the West Bank and in Gaza because the United Nations Relief and Works Agency had constructed concrete and mud-brick houses for them, provided sanitary facilities, laid out streets and established schools for refugee children.

(*United Nations Relief and Works Agency Report, 1967*).

9) The United Nations Relief and Works Agency estimates that U.S. five cents a day is spent on each refugee for «relief,» to provide him with 1,600 calories in foodstruffs, tent shelter and welfare. Another two cents a day is spent on health and education.

(*United Nations Relief and Works Agency Report, 1967*).

10) «The question of return preoccupies the refugee families constantly. Many of them hear from their home communities that conditions are not good. Many of them continue to fear the presence of the Israeli occupying forces. But the great majority wish to return (more than ninety per cent). When asked what obstacles prevented them from returning, they would reply 'Permission. Only the permission'.»

(*The American University team*)

11) Although the Israelis publically agreed to allow the refugees to return to their homes, only 14,000 (less than five per cent) were able to do so because of restrictions imposed by the Israelis : the arbitrary cut-off date of August 31, 1967 for the completion of the return; refusal to allow the young and able-bodied to return as they were considered to be «security risks» ; division of families, some members allowed back, others not : selection of returning families according to the area from which they had come.

(L'Orient, *Beirut, September 1, 1967 Reuter — AFP — U.P.I.*).

12) On the 20th of November 1967, the Israelis bombarded the refugee camp of El-Karama on the river Jordan. This bombardment resulted in the death of fourteen people, including the teacher of the primary school and three children. Twenty-eight people were injured. Among other objectives of this bombardment were two mosques, as well as the school.

(L'Orient, *Beirut, November 21, 1967, AP*).

13) On the 1st of December, 1967, General Moshe Dayan, Israeli Minister of Defence, declared that if resistance on the West Bank against Israeli occupation continued, he would have to «expel all the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank» (around 900,000 Palestinian Arabs).

(L'Orient, *Beirut, December 2, 1967, AFP Reuter-UPI*).

14) On the 3rd of December, 1967, Terence Smith, reporting in the *New York Times* and *L'Orient* simultaneously said: «During the last two weeks, the village of Jiftlik in the Nablus area of the West Bank was completely wiped off the map by Israeli forces. The result: six thousand Palestinian Arabs without refuge.»

15) On the 3rd of December, 1967, the mayor of Ramallah on the West Bank issued an appeal on behalf of the inhabitants of Yalu, Amwas and Beit Nuba in the Latrun district, who had been expelled from their homes, after their destruction by Israeli forces, *one week after* the cease-fire. «There were now 9,000 such villagers sleeping in the fields,» he said.

(Nahar, *Beirut, December 4, 1967 reported by AFP from Tel-Aviv*).

Exodus : Grandfather and Grandaughter

Refugees, old and new,
The aged andthe young.